AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An electronic communication method for facilitating financial transactions between buyers and sellers of investment contracts, comprising:

defining via a buyer computing arrangement an import specification identifying database format characteristics of investment plan information stored in a first database;

mapping, via the buyer computing arrangement, data fields from the first database to data fields in a second database to create a data import map, wherein the data fields in the second database are predefined data fields;

importing, via the buyer computing arrangement, the investment plan information into the predefined data fields of the second database according to the import specification and data import map;

electronically transferring the investment plan information via the buyer computing arrangement to a central database accessible by the investment contract sellers authorized by the investment contract buyers to receive the investment plan information;

electronically transferring the investment plan information from the central database to seller computing arrangements of the authorized investment contract sellers upon initiation by the authorized investment contract sellers via the seller computing arrangements; and

creating, via the seller computing arrangements, respective [[a]]proposed investment contracts from the investment plan information received via the central database.

2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising electronically transferring via the buyer computing arrangement a seller authorization code identifying the investment contract sellers who are to be authorized by the investment contract buyers.

3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 2, further comprising creating via the buyer computing arrangement particular database folders for each potential one of the investment

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contract sellers, and allowing the investment contract sellers corresponding to the authorization code to electronically receive the investment plan information from their respective database folders via the seller computing arrangements.

4. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising transmitting via the seller computing arrangements the proposed investment contract to the investment contract buyerseller who transferred the investment plan information.

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising notifying, via a central computing arrangement or the buyer computing arrangement, the investment contract sellers of their respective authorizations to receive the investment plan information from the central database.

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

defining, via at least one of the seller computing arrangements, an export specification identifying database format characteristics of an export file;

mapping, via the at least one seller computing arrangement, data fields from the investment plan information received by the investment contract sellers to a third database to create a data export map; and

exporting, via the at least one seller computing arrangement, the investment plan information received by the investment contract sellers to the data fields of the export file according to the export specification and data export map.

7. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising transferring system data tables via the buyer computing arrangement to the central database accessible by a central site administrator and inaccessible to the seller computing arrangements of the investment contract sellers.

8. (original)   A transaction processing system for facilitating financial transactions between buyers and sellers of investment contracts, comprising:

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(a) a central database accessible by the investment contract buyers and the investment contract sellers;

(b) at least one computing device having storage, and a user interface to interface to the computing device, wherein the user interface includes at least a display and means for entering data, and wherein the computing device comprises:

(1) import definition means for defining an import specification identifying database format characteristics of investment plan information stored in a first database accessible by the computing device;

(2) data mapping means for mapping data fields from the first database to data fields in a second database accessible by the computing device to create a data import map, wherein the data fields in the second database are predefined data fields;

(3) data importation means for importing the investment plan information into the predefined data fields of the second database according to the import specification and data import map;

(4) first data transfer means for transferring the investment plan information to the central database;

(5) seller identification means for identifying the investment contract sellers who are authorized by the investment contract buyers to receive the investment plan information; and

(c) wherein the central database comprises means for releasing the investment plan information to only the investment contract sellers identified by the investment contract buyers as authorized to receive the investment plan information.

9. (original)   The transaction processing system as in Claim 8, further comprising a second computing device having a storage, and a user interface to interface to the second computing device, wherein the user interface includes at least a display and means for entering data, and wherein the second computing device comprises:

second data transfer means for transferring the investment plan information from the central database to the authorized investment contract sellers upon initiation by the authorized investment contract sellers and upon release of the investment plan information; and

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means for viewing the investment plan information received via the central database by the investment contract sellers.

10. (original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for facilitating financial transactions between buyers and sellers of investment contracts, the computer-executable instructions performing steps comprising:

defining an import specification identifying database format characteristics of investment plan information stored in a first database;

mapping data fields from the first database to data fields in a second database to create a data import map, wherein the data fields in the second database are predefined data fields;

importing the investment plan information into the predefined data fields of the second database according to the import specification and data import map;

designating the investment contract sellers who are authorized by the investment contract buyers to receive the investment plan information;

transferring the investment plan information to a central database; and

releasing the investment plan information to the investment contract sellers identified by the investment contract buyers as being authorized to receive the investment plan information.